

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04
SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-04 CEA-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 FEA-01 /085 W

-----032108Z 009446 /70

O 032034Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2648

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

ALL OTHER CANADIAN POSTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 OTTAWA 01243

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CA

SUBJECT: IMPACT OF TRUDEAU VISIT ON US/CANADIAN RELATION-
SHIPS: AN OTTAWA PERSPECTIVE

1. SUMMARY. TRUDEAU WAS REMARKABLY SUCCESSFUL IN ACCOMPLISHING MOST OF HIS MAIN OBJECTIVES IN VISITING WASHINGTON, I.E., DEVELOPING CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRESIDENT, ACHIEVING PROGRESS IN RESOLVING OUTSTANDING BILATERAL ISSUES, AND STRENGTHENING HIS DOMESTIC POLITICAL POSITION. WE SUSPECT HE ACHIEVED ONLY MIXED RESULTS REGARDING HIS OTHER PRIMARY GOAL, I.E., ALLAYING CONCERNS IN U.S. ABOUT FUTURE UNITY OF ITS NORTHERN NEIGHBOR. FACING VARIOUS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AT HOME, TRUDEAU DESIRES TO DEVELOP EVEN CLOSER, MORE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH U.S. IN FACT, WE MAY SEE REVIVAL BY CANADA OF "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" CONCEPT AS REFLECTION OF ITS OVERALL DEPENDENCE ON U.S. AND ITS INTERNAL WEAKNESSES. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT TRUDEAU'S THREE BASIC OBJECT-
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IVES (ASIDE FROM STRENGTHENING HIS DOMESTIC POSITION WHICH IS SUBJECT OF SEPARATE MESSAGE) IN VISITING WASHINGTON WERE TO: (A) DEVELOP CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH PRESIDENT; (B) ALLAY CONCERNS IN U.S. ABOUT FRACTURE OF CANADIAN UNITY AND (C) ACHIEVE PROGRESS IN RESOLVING OUTSTANDING BILATERAL ISSUES. AS WE HAVE NOTED (OTTAWA 434), TRUDEAU WAS NOT FULLY SATISFIED WITH HIS

RELATIONS WITH THREE MOST RECENT U.S. PRESIDENTS, AS HE FOUND HIMSELF LESS AT EASE WITH THEM THAN WITH EUROPEAN LEADERS. WE SENSE -- AS IT MUST ALSO HAVE BEEN APPARENT IN WASHINGTON -- THAT WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, HE FELT A SENSE OF RAPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING RIGHT FROM BEGINNING. IN OUR JUDGMENT, TRUDEAU CAME AWAY SATISFIED THAT HIS VISIT LAID FOUNDATION FOR CLOSER AND MORE COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP THAN HE HAS ENJOYED WITH ANY PREVIOUS U.S. PRESIDENT. THIS RELATIONSHIP WILL OBVIOUSLY BE IMPORTANT AS BOTH GOVERNMENTS SEEK TO RESOLVE REMAINING BILATERAL DIFFERENCES, PREVENT NEW IRRITANTS FROM BECOMING MAJOR ISSUES, AND HARMONIZE POLICIES ON MULTILATERAL PROBLEMS.

3. AS FOR SECOND OBJECTIVE, I.E., REASSURING AMERICANS ABOUT FUTURE OF CANADIAN UNITY, WE SUSPECT TRUDEAU ACHIEVED ONLY MIXED RESULTS. PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS TO CTV INTERVIEWER BRUCE PHILLIPS, AND STRONG CONGRESSIONAL APPLAUSE FOLLOWING TRUDEAU'S ASSERTION THAT "CANADA'S UNITY WILL NOT BE FRACTURED" WERE OBVIOUSLY WELCOMED BY TRUDEAU AND CANADIAN FEDERALISTS. SUBSEQUENTLY, WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED AMONG TRUDEAU'S COLLEAGUES AND SUPPORTERS TACIT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT PRESIDENT AND USG DID TRUDEAU MAJOR FAVOR QN THIS ISSUE AND THAT CANADA NOW OWES US ONE. MOST ACCEPT THIS AS BEING IN NATURE OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS, BUT IT MAKES SOME CANADIANS -- ESPECIALLY "NATIONALISTS" NERVOUS AND SUSPICIOUS OF WHAT FUTURE PRICE CANADA WILL BE OBLIGED TO PAY. CONJECTURES QUITE NATURALLY FALL IN AREA OF ENERGY SUPPLY AND

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TRANSMISSION.

4. THIRD OBJECTIVE, I.E., ACHIEVING PROGRESS IN RESOLVING OUTSTANDING BILATERAL ISSUES, REQUIRED LESS ATTENTION, INASMUCH AS RELATIVELY FEW PROBLEMS EXIST WORTHY OF SUMMIT ATTENTION. MOREOVER, PRESIDENT'S ACTION ON GARRISON DIVERSION HAD ALREADY REMOVED ONE SUCH MAJOR TOPIC FROM AGENDA. SINCE DEPARTMENT IS FULLY CONVERSANT WITH PROGRESS MADE ON BILATERAL ISSUES, EMBASSY WOULD ONLY OFFER OUR PERSPECTIVE THAT TRUDEAU NOW RECOGNIZES MORE CLEARLY EXTRAORDINARY IMPORTANCE U.S. ATTACHES TO COOPERATING WITH CANADA IN MAKING PIPELINE ROUTE DECISION.

5. AS DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE NOTED, TRUDEAU IN ADDRESS TO CONGRESS MINIMIZED IMPORTANCE OF OUTSTANDING BILATERAL DIFFERENCES AND UNDERScored COMMON BOUNDARIES BETWEEN CANADA AND U.S. IN OUR JUDGMENT, THOSE WORDS REFLECT FEELINGS OF MAN WHO RECOGNIZES HIS COUNTRY IS FACING

SERIOUS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND THAT IT IS
THEREFORE TO HIS GOVERNMENT'S ADVANTAGE TO DEVELOP EVEN
CLOSER AND MORE FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE U.S.
TRUDEAU PROBABLY RECOGNIZES THAT CURRENTS OF ECONOMIC AND
CULTURAL NATIONALISM ARE NO LONGER AS STRONG IN CANADA AS
THEY WERE ONE YEAR AGO. AS HE DID IN WASHINGTON PRESS
CONFERENCE, TRUDEAU WILL CONTINUE TO PAY LIP SERVICE TO
CANADA'S "THIRD OPTION" FOREIGN POLICY, AND GOC WILL

CERTAINLY CONTINUE TO PRESS HARD ON SUCH BILATERAL ISSUES
AS SEAWARD BOUNDARIES, FISHERIES AND ENVIRONMENT PROBLEMS,

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 OTTAWA 01243

BUT WE EXPECT PRIME MINISTER WILL BE MORE INCLINED TO
AVOID CONFLICT WITH U.S. WHENEVER POSSIBLE. IN SHORT,
CANADA MAY RESURRECT "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" IN FACT IF NOT
IN WORDS, AS REFLECTIONS OF ITS CURRENT INTERNAL WEAKNESSES
AND DEPENDENCE ON U.S. LEARY

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